

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 9, 2004

OVERALL CRIME RATES DOWN CITYWIDE

When comparing citywide data from April 2004 to April 2003, all crime categories registered decreases, with the exception of arson which was up by 50 percent. Violent crime is down 23 percent compared to last April; property crime is down 13 percent. Each of the seven districts experienced a total decrease in crime, with the Sixth District registering the largest decrease at 33 percent. Year-to-date, overall crime is down 8 percent citywide; violent crime is down 15 percent during that same time frame.

The preliminary crime statistics are based on DC Code index offenses and are not comparable with the official Index Crime data reported annually to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program.

SERIES OF ROBBERIES IN ADAMS MORGAN, MT. PLEASANT MAY BE LINKED

Beginning at approximately 9:30 pm, Monday, April 5, 2004, until approximately 5:40 am the next morning, there were possibly as many as 18 street robberies that occurred in the northwest section of the city, within the department's Third and Fourth Districts, which may be linked.

In all of these robberies, the descriptions of the suspects are generally the same. The first suspect is described as a black male in his late teens or early twenties, with a dark complexion, 6'2" tall, 140 to 160 pounds, wearing all dark clothing and armed with a large silver handgun. The second suspect is described as a black male in his late teens or early twenties, with a medium to dark complexion, 5'10" tall, 140 to 160 pounds, also wearing all dark clothing and armed with a black handgun.

Based on witness descriptions, it appears the suspects may have used as many as four different vehicles, including one taken from a robbery, during the commission of the robberies. The various descriptions are of a gold Dodge Intrepid, dark Jaguar, maroon or red Chevrolet Cavalier or Toyota Corolla and a green Kia Sedona, which was stolen during a robbery.

Anyone with information about these cases is asked to call police at (202) 727-9099.

- ① Access the March preliminary statistics—citywide and for each of the seven police districts—at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtm

- ① For more information, including a complete listing of locations of robberies connected to this case, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2641>

- ① Robbery and assault are serious crimes. Although they can't always be prevented, there are some steps that can be taken to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim. Read the MPDC's safety tips on guarding against robbery and assault at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/robbassault.shtm>

- ① Crime Solvers offers a reward of up to \$1,000 for tips on certain crimes, including robbery. For more information about DC Crime Solvers, visit:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/aboutcrimesolvers.shtm>

OPERATION FIGHT BACK HITS QUARLES STREET IN PSA 601

On Thursday, February 19, 2004, the Ward 7 CORE Team, along with members of PSA 601 conducted an Operation Fight Back in the 4800 and 4900 blocks of Quarles Street, NE. This area has been plagued by drug activities for several years.

A number of DC agencies were present throughout the day to get involved with the Operation Fight Back efforts. A security checkpoint was established, sewers were cleaned, and abandoned autos were towed away. Garbage was cleared away and traps were set to eliminate the rats, which had become a common sight because of the abundant trash.

Additionally, an apartment building in the 4800 block of Quarles Street also received special attention. With less than half of the units legally occupied by tenants, residents' concerns had been growing. They met with representatives from the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), MPDC and the US Department of Justice to determine what could be done about the drug dealers, prostitutes, and the homeless occupying the vacant apartments.

During PSA 601's Operation Fight Back, Sixth District officers made 12 arrests for a variety of offenses, including Probation Violation, Possession with Intent to Distribute—Marijuana, Distribution—Marijuana, Unregistered Vehicle, and Disorderly Conduct.

FREE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING AVAILABLE TO DC RESIDENTS

Neighborhood Services is currently working on a program to assist DC residents in becoming better prepared in case of a disaster or an emergency. Neighborhood Services has come together with the DC Commission on National and Community Service to provide training for citizens to enable them to help themselves, their loved ones, and other citizens when disaster strikes. The program's goal is to create a team of volunteers that can support the needs of the city's professional first-responders and be of service to our community. There will be several sites that will deliver a training program called Community Emergency Response Team (CERT-54 and below) and Senior Community Emergency Response Team (S-CERT-55 and above).

The free classes will include:

- factual information about what to expect in the event of a disaster.
- necessary life saving skills.
- the organizational skills to offer immediate help to the victims as citizen groups.
- a great emergency kit/backpack containing useful emergency supplies.
- a first aid kit, a dust face mask, emergency blanket, bug repellent, worker's gloves, rain poncho, wire splint, whistle, and weather proof radio.

There are several convenient class sessions and locations to fit your schedule. If you would like to register, get more information about the program, or to schedule a visit from Neighborhood Services to come and give your group a brief description, contact your Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Information about the CERT program is available at <http://www.gwcert.org>

NEWS & NOTES

Drug Free Zones. The MPDC is enforcing DC's anti-loitering law this weekend in a designated drug free zone in PSA 510 in Northeast. Additional drug free zones re planned for the coming weeks. Details on this program are available at <http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>.

Crime Victims' Rights Week. National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 18-24. This is a time to remember and recognize victims of crime, and to increase public awareness of victims' rights and services. Various events and activities will be taking place in DC during the week. For more information about the national observance, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncrvw/welcome.html>.

- ① From debris to criminals, Quarles Street, NE is now a cleaner place, thanks to the teamwork of the officers, community members, and other city agencies in PSA 601.

For the complete story, including photos, go to: http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/6th/ss_fightback610_0204.shtm

- ① For background on "Operation Fight Back" and additional success stories, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/fightback.shtm>

- ① Additional information about emergency preparedness and homeland security in the District of Columbia is available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/emergencypreparedness.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 4/9/04)

- 2004: 49
- 2003: 68
- % Change: -27.9%
- Closure Rate: 51% (25 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 4/3/04)

- Total: 1,041
- Drugs: 190
- Weapons: 23
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 23
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 107

Firearm Recoveries (as of 4/7/04)

- April: 28
- 2004 Total: 587

Traffic Fatalities (as of 4/9/04)

- 2004: 15
- 2003: 11
- % Change: +36.4%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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